

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Good morning, everybody; good morning, America. How are you? I am showing my age a little bit.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is always great to be an American, and it is always a great time in America because we have hope and vision for the future, and I am happy to report to you that Congress and the Obama administration have departed on a new course of action—no more voodoo economics, no more trickle-down economics. These are failed policies, and it is time for something new.

Whenever something new is on the table, there are always those who, instead of appreciating being Americans, they complain and don't add anything positive to the discussion.

But despite the obstacles that we confront, we will continue down this road. And, indeed, America will continue to experience morning in America.

AIG, BONUSES, AND THE FRENCH

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, AIG took bailout money and then gave millions to executives in bonuses. Now Congress is bent out of shape about it, and rightfully so. But the truth is in the last stimulus bill that Congress quickly passed with little or no debate was an attached amendment to allow AIG to do exactly what they did—give out high-dollar bonuses.

Congress is responsible for this irresponsible spending and must deal with the consequences. To make matters worse, AIG gave bailout money to foreign banks, like in France. The French are the same people who vilify the United States, blame the world's problems on us, and have a disdain for everything American.

Mr. Speaker, I think the U.S. has bailed out France enough. We helped save France in World War I, saved them again in World War II, and took over in Vietnam after they failed there—but with little or no gratitude from the French.

And AIG also gave billions to German and English banks. We can't afford to give away taxpayer money and reward failure while making working Americans pay for all of this nonsense. "No" to more bailouts, foreign or domestic.

And that's just the way it is.

BRAIN AWARENESS WEEK

(Mr. SESTAK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SESTAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to say a few words about Brain Awareness Week. This is the week that the Society of Neuroscience members spread throughout America to speak about the exciting wonders of the mind. But in addition, like up in my district at

Franklin Institute, they will speak about not only neuroscience, but how do we take care of those patients who suffer damage.

I speak about this because as a veteran, as the Pentagon announced early this month, 360,000 of those 1.8 million members of our society who went to Iraq or Afghanistan have returned with a brain injury. The vast majority of them have healed and will heal, except for about 90,000 who will have lasting damage. That's why this week is so important. While we have a tendency to take care of these patients, there is much more to be done in the treatment of their damage with the discovery of neurostem cells and the possibility of stem transplants to repair the damage.

Again, I commend the Society of Neuroscience, particularly in this area of our returning veterans to help them improve their quality of life.

BUDGET TAXES TOO MUCH

(Mr. FLEMING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, this is budget time again, and this budget proposed by the administration has some very major flaws in it. It creates a greater tax burden on the American people, among other things. The budget calls for a \$637 billion tax increase for the majority of small businesses that pay taxes as individuals.

The cap-and-trade but cap-and-tax program, will increase taxes conservatively by \$646 billion on energy to every household in America. These households can expect to pay more than \$3,000 a year extra on their utility bills. This is money taken directly out of the pockets of working families struggling to pay bills each month.

This budget also caps the value of itemized deductions for those with higher incomes and really middle-class incomes, reducing charitable giving by \$9 billion a year which will devastate charities.

Finally, this budget reinstates the death tax which has been found to lower overall employment by \$1.5 million.

This budget spends too much, wastes too much, and taxes too much.

NOT SO FAST ON THE AIG BONUSES

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, not quite so fast on the AIG bonuses. The weasels who drove that company into the ground may not even be entitled to the bonuses in their contract based on their performance. And a failed company rescued from bankruptcy by the United States Government may not be obligated to pay them anyway.

Thankfully, there is also the power of the tax code. Let's return to the Eisen-

hower tax rates of 90 percent for people who receive bonuses from companies that we already own 50 percent or more of with taxpayer money.

For years the tax code around here has been tortured to reward people who need tax cuts absolutely the least. Hopefully we can use it this time to impose a little tax justice.

WHERE DOES ALL OF THE MONEY COME FROM?

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, one of my constituents recently said to me, "I'm tired of the government spending money I have not made yet for programs I don't want." And my constituents are right on this.

On top of the trillions that have already been spent, the President's budget is proposing doubling Federal spending by the year 2019. My constituents are saying, "How are we going to pay for this?"

Well, as we have heard this morning, there is the tax-and-cap scheme which is \$646 billion and is going to cost every American family an additional \$3,128 per year out of their household budget.

There is also the small-business taxes, \$637 billion of new small-business taxes. It is going to wipe out any kind of tax reduction that would have gone to the 95 percent of working Americans.

So the question becomes: Where does all of this money come from? Well, we know that the Democrat leadership is going to borrow too much, they are going to tax too much, and they are going to spend too much of the taxpayers' money.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. ALTMIRE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, with passage of the long-overdue SCHIP bill, Congress and the President expanded health care coverage to 4 million American children who were previously uncovered. This single step did more to improve our health care system in one day than we had seen in 8 years. But there is still more to be done.

Every individual, every family, and every business in America struggles every day with health care costs. Their inability to afford coverage and the increased cost for goods and services as a result of health care costs for their business, this issue affects everybody in every way.

But for the first time, the President and Congress plan to consider health care reform as part of the budget process so we can accurately account for the true costs of doing health care reform and of not doing health care reform, which would be the price of inaction.

Health care cost increases are on an unsustainable course, and we can no longer hide behind budget gimmicks and just pass along the tough fiscal decisions for future Congresses. The time has come to act.

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PRESIDENT'S BUDGET TAKES US IN THE WRONG DIRECTION

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the \$3.6 trillion budget released by President Obama spends too much, taxes too much, borrows too much, and wastes too much.

Today, middle-class families and small businesses are making sacrifices when it comes to their own budget, yet Washington continues to spend trillions of taxpayer dollars on bailouts and other government programs. The spending in this budget is so massive that independent estimates suggest roughly 250,000 new Federal bureaucrats may be needed just to spend it all.

Rather than government cutting back, showing restraint, operating more efficiently on basic government responsibilities, the President proposes to create massive new programs, vastly expanding the scope and reach of the Federal Government. The energy taxes alone will cost every household over 3,000 additional dollars per year.

This budget will cost American jobs at a time when we can't afford it. The majority of those hit by the new tax increases are small businesses, the engines of job creation in our economy. This budget takes us in the wrong direction.

CONGRATULATING MAHONING VALLEY

(Mr. WILSON of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to congratulate the Mahoning Valley on a much-deserved honor. It recently ranked seventh in the Nation among mid-sized metropolitan areas for business attraction and expansion, according to Site Selection magazine. This is the first time the Valley has been chosen since the survey began 30 years ago.

Amidst all the bad economic news, this announcement was a bright spot that demonstrates all the hard work our businesses, workforce, and elected officials have put into making our community a great place to live and work and expand. The Mahoning Valley is ripe for economic development, and I am so pleased to see it receive such positive recognition. The magazine recognizes the local metropolitan area, which includes Mahoning, Trumbull, and Columbiana Counties in Ohio.

Congratulations, Mahoning Valley. I am so proud to represent you, and look forward to continuing to help foster economic development in Ohio's Sixth District.

MEDIA'S IMMIGRATION BIAS PREVENTS AMERICANS FROM GETTING FACTS

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, many of us remember the tragic case of Chandra Levy, a former Washington, D.C. intern who disappeared suddenly 8 years ago.

The man charged recently with murdering Ms. Levy entered the United States illegally, but you might not have known that by following the news. CBS, CNN, and the AP, among many other media outlets, failed to mention even once that the suspect entered the country illegally. Instead, the media used terms like "incarcerated felon" and "jailed attacker" to refer to the suspect in news reports. They neglected to point out that the suspect would not have been able to commit the alleged murder if he had not entered the country illegally in the first place.

This is an example of how the media's liberal bias on immigration issues prevents Americans from getting the facts. Whether it's immigration or any other issue, the media should report the facts, not slant the news.

BUSH BUDGET LEGACY—DEEP DEFICITS AND ECONOMIC DECLINE

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, in January, 2001, President Bush inherited a fiscal situation stronger than any in half a century. When President Clinton left office, the Federal budget was on track to retire all debt for the first time since 1835 and add \$3 trillion in net national savings. But Republican trickle-down economic policies changed all that—squandering the entire budget surplus and instead creating deficits in the trillions.

Republicans let budget rules lapse. They increased spending, they cut revenue, and enacted expensive tax cuts for those who needed them the least. On President Bush's watch, the debt held by the public grew from \$3.4 to \$6.3 trillion. The gross Federal debt doubled, and foreign-held debt more than tripled.

Mr. Speaker, the healthy fiscal forecast the Bush administration inherited 8 years ago has now been replaced by record budget deficits as far as the eye can see and an economy in a tailspin. This is the unfortunate situation that President Bush left President Obama. It stands in stark contrast to what President Bush inherited in 2001 and

demonstrates the harmful effects of Republican economic policies.

REJECT THE FLAWED CAP-AND-TAX PROGRAM

(Mr. SULLIVAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, while our Nation is suffering a severe economic recession, the Democrat majority is working behind closed doors to enact the largest carbon regulatory scheme in our Nation's history in the form of a cap-and-tax system. In fact, President Obama's budget includes a \$646 billion cap-and-trade energy tax that will be paid by every American who drives a car, turns on a light switch, or buys a product made in the United States. And that's every single American, regardless of income. No matter how you slice it, this issue is a huge tax. Government revenues are, of course, taxes on the American people.

This cap-and-tax scheme would cost the average American household in every State up to \$3,000 a year, and that's a very conservative estimate. This is really not a good way to stimulate our economy in economic bad times like we are in.

I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to reject the flawed cap-and-tax program in the President's budget. The Democrat majority is borrowing too much money, taxing too much, and spending too much. When is it enough?

AMERICA WILL RECOVER AND EMERGE STRONGER THAN EVER BEFORE

(Ms. CASTOR of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. According to a poll released this week, more Americans believe that the country is on the right track than before the election, and they believe that President Obama is handling his new job very well.

What I hear from folks back home in Florida is they have faith that the recovery plan is going to help them. Indeed, the moneys are being delivered to local communities to create jobs. In Tampa, we're going to construct an important link for economic development out of our port, moneys for our public schools, and students will arrive this month.

Energy efficiency. We are going to weatherize homes throughout the Tampa Bay area and the State of Florida.

On Monday, we announced a computer initiative to computerize medical records throughout the Tampa Bay region. Health care for Floridians will be provided because we are not going to let our neighbors fall through the crack during this economic downturn.

The budget priorities President Obama has sent us are right—health care reform, education, and investments in energy. We will recover, and